

03/08/1999

Pas incapable of ruling the country, says Dr Mahathir

IPOH, Mon. - The people should reject Pas as it is incapable of ruling the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said Pas did not have concrete plans and did not know how to raise funds to develop the country, as evidenced by the state of affairs in Kelantan.

He said Pas was obsessed with wanting to "sell off" existing government projects such as Putra Jaya, the Kuala Lumpur International Airport and the Kuala Lumpur City Centre.

"This clearly shows that the party is incapable of administering the country," he said, asking how Pas could be allowed to rule the country when it could not even provide water supply to the people of Kelantan.

Poverty rate was still high because of the weaknesses of the Kelantan Government administration, he said.

He said the Barisan Nasional, on the other hand, had proven its capability in expanding the economy, resulting in the increase in people's income.

He said there was absolutely nothing that Pas could do for the people except to create the politics of hate and instil hatred for the Federal Government and himself.

"This is not professed by Islam. Therefore, I urge Pas supporters not to close their minds to the explanation given by Umno and Umno's ulama because what they said is the truth," he said at a meet-the-people gathering at the Perak Stadium.

Also present were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib and BN component party leaders.

Dr Mahathir said what was important in politics was not just winning seats and gaining positions. More important, he said, was the question of whether the government could be of service to the people and the country and if it was able to protect the country from foreign interference.

"That is the objective of elections ... to elect a credible government ... not one which is more concerned whether beautiful women should work or not."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would like to make friends with other countries including the superpowers, businessmen and foreign investors.

"We have no plans to stop them if they are sincere in wanting to invest in the country. They can make profits and we too can enjoy the benefits from their investments," he said.

On the economic problems, he said the Government was thankful that the people accepted the situation without resorting to riots and demonstrations as happened in some other countries.

He added that as such the Government was able to embark on the necessary measures to improve the economy.

(END)